

Now the President has staked his name on reaching a deal with the Ayatollahs no matter how dangerous or destabilizing the final accord is. If the Iranians agree to this, and from their own hegemonic interest they would be foolish not to, the Israeli hand will be forced as it was with the Iraqi Osirik reactor in 1981; or at the least, a Middle East nuclear arms race, that pulls in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf States, will begin.

Mr. Obama has turned his back on decades of assurances from Presidents of both parties that Iran would not acquire nuclear weapons. He has willfully ignored 40 years of hostility from Tehran. If the President does not recognize that we are at war, the mullahs certainly do. They are the chief sponsor of global terror. They have never stepped back from their desire to obliterate Israel and to destroy the United States. Our Arab friends see Iran creating a satellite "Shia Crescent" stretching to the Mediterranean and consisting of Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. To their south and west, they see Iran gaining control of Yemen. Shia Iran is so obsessed with its race to dominate the Middle East that it is funneling millions of dollars to the Sunni terrorist group Hamas, to fund their war against Israel, even though the Sunnis are religious enemies.

Tehran has a 9-figure line item in its budget to support terrorism, sending hundreds of millions of dollars to various groups each year; the payments to Hezbollah alone are as much as \$200 million annually. According to Canadian intelligence, "[I]n February 1999, it was reported that Palestinian police discovered documents that attest to the transfer of \$35 million to Hamas from the Iranian Intelligence Service (MOIS), money reportedly meant to finance terrorist activities against Israeli targets." Illustrating how such support is part of official government policy, from 2001 to 2006, Iran transferred \$50 million to Hezbollah fronts in Lebanon by sending funds from its central bank through Bank Saderat's London office.

Mr. President, 40 years ago, Richard Nixon confronted Soviet incursions into the Middle East. The so called Nixon Doctrine laid the foundation for a peaceful pro-Western resolution of the various crises in the region. Nixon made it clear to everyone that the United States would not abandon Israel. Israel would be backed by the power of the United States in any conflict with its Soviet backed Arab neighbors and against the Soviet Union itself. One by one, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates, recognized the futility of armed hostility to Israel and backed away from Moscow and made peace, an imperfect peace but peace nonetheless. Golda Meir called President Nixon "the best friend Israel ever had."

In the region's west, Nixon promoted a secular pro-Western Iran, albeit under the imperfect leadership of the

Shah. Nevertheless, the Shah bottled the Soviet Navy from entering the Persian Gulf and Iran's economy took off—until Jimmy Carter decided to aid the transfer of the Ayatollah Khomeini from his Paris exile back to Iran—in the name of human rights. We have reaped the whirlwind.

Now we have the Obama Doctrine. America is the problem. Israel is viewed as an obstacle to peace and Iran is treated as another oppressed constituency with legitimate grievances against the West, so much so that when millions of Iranians took to the streets against the mullahs, President Obama did nothing and said nothing—strengthening the hand of the clerics. When the Egyptian generals overthrew the Muslim Brotherhood, who were waging war against Coptic Christians and openly spoke of renewing the fight against Israel—the State Department condemned them as "undemocratic." The old American alliances are collapsing in confusion and fear and the only answer from the administration seems to be to clear Iran's path toward a nuclear weapon.

The greatest concession in the current negotiations has been the abandonment of the original U.S. position of preventing Iran from having a nuclear-weapons capability. This was the stance of the Bush administration. It was also the position of the Obama administration until November 2013. This is a disaster. Here is what we know as acknowledged by the Obama administration negotiators including the Secretaries of State and Energy:

There will be no limits on Iran's ballistic-missile force, the means for delivering its nuclear weapons. The U.S. position of seeking limits on the missile force was abandoned when the Supreme Leader objected and Obama conceded.

There will be no resolution of Iran's weaponization activities. Iran will promise once again to cooperate with the IAEA, but no one expects anything other than more Iranian obstacles. A resolution of weaponization activities was also a precondition for an agreement.

Inspections will be based on managed access but only on Iran's terms. At one point, the U.S. insisted that effective verification required full access to facilities and people. Under the Obama plan there will be no inspections of military sites much less suspected covert facilities such as the Lavizan-3 site or the Fordow weapons complex buried deep in the Iranian mountains.

Obama will allow the Arak heavy-water reactor to be modified but not in any way that prevents Iran from using it to produce plutonium for weapons. Again, the initial Obama position was that the reactor must be dismantled.

The economic sanctions, particularly the banking freeze that wrecked the Iranian economy will be lifted. In fact, Tehran has already received billions of dollars just for continuing the negotiations. It has already freed the Russians

to sell the advanced S-300 air defense system. As agitation against the mullahs was growing we have given them a lifeline. Squeezing Iran economically, aided by the fall in worldwide oil prices, was the surest way to force concessions. Once the sanctions are lifted it will be nearly impossible to go back.

The restrictions on Iran's nuclear program will reportedly be phased out after 10 years, a period shorter than the time it has taken to negotiate the agreement. The original U.S. position was that restrictions would be permanent. As Henry Kissinger said, far from enabling the President's goal of disengaging from the Middle East, the framework will necessitate a deepening involvement in the region under a complex "new order" dictated by a nuclear Iran.

Iran will be allowed to operate thousands of centrifuges to enrich uranium and to pursue research and development of more advanced systems. The original U.S. position—backed by multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding complete suspension of all enrichment activities—was zero enrichment and zero centrifuges. Under President Obama, zero was abandoned as unrealistic, and the number of permitted centrifuges moved up, according to the Secretary of Energy from 1,000 to 4,000 to 6,000. Iran has rejected each offer as insufficient, only to be rewarded with a better one. That is how the administration negotiates—from behind.

In his 1987 State of the Union Address, Ronald Regan warned us:

Our approach is not to seek agreement for agreement's sake but to settle only for agreements that truly enhance our national security and that of our allies. We will never put our security at risk or that of our allies just to reach an agreement . . . No agreement is better than a bad agreement.

There you have it. Our allies—Israel, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Jordan, and Egypt—are worried. Tehran is on the march and moving closer to nuclear status. As Charles Krauthammer noted, "the one great hope for Middle East peace, the strategic anchor for forty years", is giving the green light to both. That is not a legacy of which to be proud.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE NEVADA APPEAL'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 150th birthday of the Silver State's oldest daily newspaper, the Nevada Appeal. I am proud to honor this publication that brings high-quality news to Nevada's capital.

Growing up in Carson City, this newspaper has played a role in my life since I was a young boy. Each morning, two of my brothers would deliver the Nevada Appeal to the local community. Of course, I was their No. 1 substitute

whenever they were unable to go. During this time, the paper was located at the Brewery Art Center. We went there each morning to fold the papers and take off to deliver them. These are memories I will never forget. It gives me great pleasure to see this publication celebrate 150 years, making it the longest continuously operating business in Carson City.

The Nevada Appeal, originally called the Carson Daily Appeal, was founded on May 16, 1865, by local businessmen E.F. McElwin, J. Barrett, and Marshall Robinson. Original editor Harry Mighels joined the team only a few days later. Over the next 100 years, the Nevada Appeal would see about 30 competitors. By 1868, Mighels had bought a few of the other local publications, and in 1870, he sold to C.L. Perkins and H.S. Street. In February of 1872, John Boothe, a newsman of Gold Hill, Virginia City, and Unionville, bought the paper. Following this in September of 1872, Mighels re-bought the newspaper and kept it in the family until 1945, when it was bought by W.L. Davis. In 1947, the paper was sold to Arthur Suverkrup, who changed the name to Nevada Appeal. Donrey Media bought out the paper in 1951 and then sold it to an investor group in 1993. Finally, in 1995, the Nevada Appeal was sold to Swift Communications, which remains the owner today.

The newspaper is delivered 6 days a week, Tuesday through Sunday, in the mornings and has a daily readership of over 25,000, including 35,000 on Sundays. It has been recognized by the Nevada Press Association, Associated Press, and Swift Communications, receiving numerous awards. The accolades are well deserved, recognizing the hard work of the staff and quality of the writing.

Throughout its 150 years, the Nevada Appeal has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of journalism. I am both humbled and honored to call this publication a historic piece of Nevada. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Nevada Appeal on its 150th birthday.●

CONGRATULATING FAVIL WEST

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Favil West, co-founder and president of the Foundation Assisting Seniors, on receiving Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year for 2015. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of hard work and dedication to Southern Nevada's senior community.

Mr. West started the nonprofit organization in 2002, seeking to improve the quality of life for seniors. The foundation assists with challenges during times of illness, recovery, confinement at home, and coping with loss of a loved one, as well as provides assistance with everyday tasks such as household maintenance and transportation. Mr. West leads the board of

trustees and also works with the foundation committees to ensure all seniors are being served effectively and efficiently. The individual committees provide transportation to drive seniors to health service appointments and to the grocery store, provide minor home maintenance services, deliver an inventory of durable medical equipment, and maintain a resource directory with information on free services. Each year, the foundation responds to thousands of requests to care for senior citizens in Southern Nevada. Mr. West's work in the local community is invaluable.

He has contributed greatly to growing the foundation, which now serves multiple communities throughout Southern Nevada. He spearheaded a new program, the HowRU Program, which is designed to minimize risks of seniors living alone by maintaining contact with clients. Subscribers are contacted daily to eliminate unreported injuries in the senior community. He has also improved outreach to garner more volunteers and community support to aid in transportation, equipment, and home maintenance needs.

Mr. West received the "Premier Community Award for Making a Difference in Their Neighborhood" from the city of Henderson in December of 2014. He also received 8 News Now Acts of Kindness recognition in October 2014 and FOX 5 News Shining Star recognition in 2013.

It is not only Mr. West's work in the senior community that deserves recognition, but also his service to our great Nation as a Vietnam-era combat veteran. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. West for his courageous contributions to the United States of America. His service to his country and his bravery earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Favil West, whose work is both noble and charitable. I am humbled and honored to recognize Mr. West for his tireless efforts in helping our senior community, and I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING CROWNS 4 KIDS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, many of our Nation's successful small businesses started as an idea that took root from big dreams and even bigger imaginations. This week's Small Business of the Week, Crowns 4 Kids of Madisonville, LA, is an excellent example of how our next generation of Louisianians are dreaming big and influencing the world around them.

Earlier this year when Harlan Jackson Adams began painting acrylic pictures of crowns for his mother, Erica Adams, he had no idea how far his fun, quirky canvases would go. Word quickly spread across his mother's social media accounts that her talented son had found a new hobby. Friends and

family began requesting crown paintings of their own, and within 2 weeks, young Harlan had over 200 orders to fill.

Demand for Adam's simple, elegant crowns grew so much among friends and family that the young entrepreneur decided to share his success with kids in need. Erica was astonished when her 7-year-old proclaimed that he wanted to donate his profits to the cancer center at Children's Hospital New Orleans. Unaware that Harlan knew about or understood what cancer is, Erica was overwhelmingly proud of her son's humility and generosity when he explained that two kids he knew were battling cancer and he wanted to help. Harlan is now an honorary member of the Distributive Education Clubs of America, a youth entrepreneurship organization, and plans to continue his charitable work.

When our young folks take the initiative to help others in the capacity that young Harlan has, we owe them our utmost respect and recognition. It is my great honor to recognize Harlan Jackson Adams and Crowns 4 Kids as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for inspiring both kids and adults to dream big and give generously.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

S. Con. Res. 16. Concurrent resolution stating the policy of the United States regarding the release of United States citizens in Iran.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SUL-LIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. AYOTTE):